

HR MANAGER

Central HR Team

£35,000 – £45,000

Harris Federation

How To Apply

Please visit www.harriscareers.org.uk to apply online and submit your application. We only accept applications submitted before the closing date via our careers website. Please refer to the last page of this candidate pack and our website for guidance on applying to opportunities within the Federation.

Safeguarding Notice

The Harris Federation and all our academies are committed to ensuring the highest levels of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and we expect all our staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All offers of employment are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, references, an online search, and where applicable, a prohibition from teaching check will be completed. Before applying, please review our [**Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders.**](#)

About the Harris Federation

The founder and sponsor of the Harris Federation, Lord Harris of Peckham, opened our first school in 1990. We have, over the past thirty years, implemented ideas and initiatives that have transformed the opportunities of pupils from working class and disadvantaged backgrounds. Harris academies are widely recognised as a force for social mobility. We are immensely proud of the role that our alumni are now beginning to play in the world and of what we believe our current generation of pupils will go on to achieve.

The Harris Federation has a track record of accomplishment in achieving success through rapid school improvement and has built an unrivalled reputation for running outstanding academies. We now have over 50 schools educating more than 40,000 young people across London and Essex, and employ over 5,000 staff across our academies and head office. With the majority of our academies located in areas of high socioeconomic disadvantage, a high-quality education is key to the futures of the pupils we serve.

Our Vision

We are a pioneering education charity, and one of the leading multi-academy trusts in the country. We have built a reputation for transformative change, taking on some of the most challenging schools in London and turning them into places where every young person can access a high-quality education and have opportunities to succeed.

Our vision, from the start, has been to provide the structure and services needed for our schools to amount to more than the sum of their parts, and to free-up our teachers and leaders to focus on one thing and one thing only: the outstanding education of all their pupils. Our young people and communities are at the heart of everything we do. Our core mission has always been to close the educational gap between young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers. Our ambition is one where every child in London, no matter their background, has equal access to high quality education, giving them the same opportunities and potential to succeed.

Our Values

We have exceptional teachers, support staff, and leaders that come from a wide range of backgrounds. They bring many different skills, but they all share a strong commitment to delivering an outstanding education and creating an inspiring and happy school environment. We know there are many challenges facing our young people and the communities we serve, and that's why we need determined people like you to help us tackle those inequalities.

Whilst each of our academies has their own unique cultures and values; as a whole Federation, we have four core values which are central to successfully achieving our vision: **Excellence, Collaboration, Support, and Innovation**. We are proud of our values because they guide us in how we work allowing us to achieve the best possible outcomes for our young people, communities, and colleagues. No matter what your role is, where you're based, or what your career goals are, our values act as a guide to empower you to do your best work.

What Sets Harris Apart

We are a Federation rather than a chain, and the autonomy of our Principals, and their individual academies is a key element of our success. In addition, the support structure from our central team provides a range of efficient and time-saving services to our academies, but Principals have ownership of running their schools to determine the best curriculum and other local policies to suit the context of their school, staff, and students.

Our head office based in East Croydon, provides expertise and guidance across Commercial, Governance, IT and Data, Finance, Estates, Procurement, HR and Recruitment, Sixth Form and Marketing. Harris academies are funded on the same basis as other state schools in England, but by negotiating shared contracts and services, and delivering other economies of scale, our academies save over £5m per year, all of which goes back into the education of our students.

As part of the central team we have more than 70 consultants, each a subject specialist and highly-skilled teachers who are available to our academies as a resource to use as they need. Their job is to create curriculum excellence in every subject. Our schools are able to access their full support to ensure the most effective curriculum intent, implementation, and impact.

From Our CEO

We see Harris as a system disrupter – whose purpose is to make life fairer for children in and around London. Our focus is to take on the most challenging schools and turn them into exceptional places of learning where everyone – staff and students – thrives.

We strive to deliver an excellent education to our young people so they can progress into top careers and the very best universities and apprenticeships, giving them the chance to fulfil their potential, no matter their background.

The secret of our success is that every Harris academy is different; every school has its own culture and ethos nurtured by its leadership team to suit the local community and context. However, all Harris academies are united by a determination to constantly improve and to quickly identify and share what works to ensure that every pupil is successful regardless of background.

As we grow, we are delighted to welcome new and experienced teachers, leaders, and support staff into the Federation, all of whom are crucial to our ongoing success. We encourage staff in their learning and development, our CPD is regularly described as ‘outstanding’, and all of us are committed to growing our expertise and sharing it with each other.

*Sir Dan Moynihan
Chief Executive*

Our Benefits

We know our success is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our teams. No matter what your role, by joining the Harris Federation, you will be making a difference to young people across London and in recognition of this, you will be able to enjoy the tangible and intangible benefits of working at Harris.

Harris has a strong culture of collaboration and best practice, with professional development and career planning at its centre. We invest in our staff with support, coaching, mentoring, and a wide range of top-quality training programmes delivered at every level.

You will also have access to a variety of benefits, support programmes and initiatives. [Visit our website](#) to discover more.

Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to encouraging and sustaining a positive and supportive working environment for our staff, and an excellent teaching and learning experience for our young people. As a provider of employment and education, we value the diversity of our staff and students, and all our staff are equally valued and respected. We are committed to providing a fair, equitable and mutually supportive learning and working environment for our students and staff.

Our work will impact many generations to come, and our staff come from all backgrounds and walks of life, coming together to inspire young minds. We promote an inclusive culture that embraces the valuable and enriching contribution that all of our community make. We continue to be proactive in uplifting and supporting all voices at Harris.

Job Purpose

Working in the Harris Federation Central Services HR Team, the HR Manager will provide professional HR advice and leadership on HR operational and transactional activities to academy HR officers and to Federation Central Services.

This is a varied role providing support to the Head of HR Business Management to develop, implement, monitor and continuously improve operational and transactional HR processes and procedures, ensuring compliance are met and audit. You will lead the Federation's international recruitment onboarding and relocating activities liaising with academies in ensuring placements are supported. You will line manage the HR Administrators for our Head office staff and act as a senior point of contact for HR colleagues in each academy. You will have the ability to consistently deliver a high-level service in a timely manner.

We are looking for candidates who can demonstrate strong operational HR knowledge and experience with and the ability to analyse, develop and apply effective HR processes and solutions. You will have an eagerness to learn continuously and seek out creative solutions to complex problems. Attention to detail, excellent organisational skills, and a passion for providing an excellent HR service to our employees and leadership teams will be key. Applicants should be able to maintain confidentiality, possess excellent communication skills and the ability to develop and maintain professional relationships at all levels within the Federation, as well as with external customers. You will be joining an experienced, friendly and collaborative team who will foster your professional development.

This role may require the post holder to make site visits to Federation academies in London and Essex.

Main Areas of Responsibility

- To provide guidance and instruction on a range of operational and transactional HR issues consistently with HR policies, demonstrating a clear understanding of current employment law and good HR practice.
- Designing and delivering in house workshops and update sessions to HR representatives within the Federation and academies on operational HR activities and transactional systems.
- Supporting the Head of HR Business Management, and HR Business Partnering team with HR compliance, audit and follow up actions.
- To develop, implement, monitor and continuously improve operational and transactional HR processes and procedures.
- To ensure that HR services are customer-focussed, consistent, comprehensive, efficient and professional.
- Provide informal advice, coaching and mentoring to academy HR representatives as required on HR operational or transactional activities.
- Be responsible for the oversight of the Head office SCR
- To line manage the Central HR Administrators, ensuring they provide a quality, efficient transactional HR service to all line managers and staff.

- Support the induction and training of Academy HR staff
- Manage a range of visa, and sponsorship queries, escalating where appropriate.
- Working with outsourced providers to ensure the smooth running of Federation processes such as payroll and benefits administration.
- To participate in and deliver HR projects as required.
- To evaluate Job Descriptions and provide advice and guidance on salary bandings to ensure a consistent and fair pay approach.

Overseas Recruitment

- Project manage the operational and transactional HR activities to support the recruitment, relocation and onboarding of international teachers. This will include handbook and document management, including the maintenance of handbooks, FAQ and guidance material, supporting the administration requirements for international recruitment activities and candidate support, including preparing recruitment packs, coordinating with academies to ensure employment offers and pre-employment checks are progressed in a timely fashion
- Community support of overseas teachers through the organisation and hosting of webinars prior to arrival, administering OTT communication channels and providing HR advice and support to the Federation's relocation mentors
- Responding to queries from OTTs
- Participating in and deliver HR projects as required

Federation Ethos

- To undertake such other duties as may be required, commensurate with the level of responsibility of the post
- To engage actively in the performance review process, addressing appraisal targets set in conjunction with the line manager each autumn term
- To participate in training and other professional development learning activities
- To promote equal opportunities and celebrate diversity in all aspects of the Federation
- To play a full part in the life of the Federation community, to support its distinctive aim and ethos and to encourage staff and students to follow this example
- To support and attend Federation events
- To promote actively the Federation's corporate policies
- To adhere to the Federation's Dress Code
- To comply with the Federation's Health and Safety policy and undertake risk assessments as appropriate
- To be familiar with and promote safeguarding requirements, demonstrating adherence to the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education and the academy's Safeguarding/Child Protection policies
- To be aware of and comply with all academy and Federation policies and procedures, in particular those relating to conduct, child protection (as above), health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person

Employees will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from a manager to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description. Employees are expected to be courteous to colleagues and provide a welcoming environment to visitors and telephone callers.

The academy will endeavour to make any necessary reasonable adjustments to the job and the working environment to enable access to employment opportunities for disabled job applicants or continued employment for any employee who develops a disabling condition (as defined in the Equality Act 2010).

Following consultation with you this job description may be changed by management to reflect or anticipate changes in the job which are commensurate with the salary and job title.

Person Specification

Area	Essential	Desirable
Education & Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educated to degree level or above • Level 5 CIPD qualified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 7 CIPD qualified
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust experience in a operational/transactional HR role including audit, compliance and transactional and operational HR process design and delivery. • Significant Experience in HR coordination or administration, preferably with an international focus. • Familiarity with sponsor management application processes and regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working within an education setting • Experience of coaching and supervising staff
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date knowledge of HR practice and employment law. • Confidence and ability to develop and maintain professional relationships at all levels within the Federation, as well as with external stakeholders. • A collaborative approach, effectively working with others to achieve success. • Excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills • Ability to work effectively as part of a team • Discretion and diplomacy – an ability to exercise discretion and adhere to confidentiality requirements. • Able to demonstrate effective judgement and decision making • Excellent time management and planning skills and to be able to work under pressure to balance conflicting demands. • Ability to use range of IT software packages including Outlook, word, excel and using advanced functionality • Strong analytical and problem-solving skills. • Attention to detail and able to work independently and accurately. • Ability to be proactive, use initiative, and take ownership for all aspects of the role. • Ability to adapt to changing situations. • Ability to research new techniques, methods and procedures. 	
Personal Competencies & Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion for HR and employee experience. • Ability to be proactive, use initiative, and take ownership for all aspects of the role. • Eagerness to learn continuously and keep up to date. • Adopting high standards of ethical conduct at all times, with a clear understanding of the impact on others. • Empathy with the aims and objectives of Harris Federation • Commitment to equality of opportunity, valuing diversity and the safeguarding and welfare of all students • Ability to undertake regular travel to academies within the Federation 	

We will consider any reasonable adjustments under the terms of the Equality Act (2010) to enable an applicant with a disability (as defined under the Act) to meet the requirements of the post. The job-holder will ensure that academy policies are reflected in all aspect of his/her work, in particular those relating to:

1. Equal Opportunities

2. Health and Safety
3. General Data Protection Regulations (2018) and Data Protection Act (2018)
4. Safeguarding children

Applying For The Position

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible as we may interview and offer to a candidate before the closing date. Please note that we only accept applications submitted before the closing date via our careers website.

Thank you for your interest in the Harris Federation. We look forward to receiving your application.

Before You Start Your Application

Please remember to check your junk mail folders for our email communications and add us to your safe senders list to ensure all future email communication is received. This is important to ensure you are kept up to date on the status of your application and to avoid delays in the recruitment process.

To submit an application, you'll need to have ready:

- Personal information about you
- Details of your education and employment history
- Details of any qualifications and training gained
- A CV and/or supporting statement to upload

Help and Support

For our Help and Support completing your application, visit www.harriscareers.org.uk

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